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----As evident from the above discussion and from the drawings, the depth adjustment mechanism is preferably disposed out of contact with the cover when the cover is covering the proximal end opening of the housing.---

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 20 and 27 as follows:

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20. (Twice Amended) A lancet device, comprising:

a housing [containing at least one stop and] having an end and having a longitudinal axis;

at least one stop contained within the housing;

a cap for covering the end of the housing and for positioning the lancet device relative to a skin surface;

a [needle] lancet holding member for holding a lancet, the lancet holding member being separate from the lancet, the [needle] lancet holding member being at least partially contained within the housing, the [needle] lancet holding member having at least one protrusion for striking the at least one stop [of] contained within the housing, the lancet holding member having a longitudinal axis;

a biasing element for biasing the [needle] lancet holding member toward an extended position, the biasing element expanding in a direction of the longitudinal axis of the lancet holding member and pushing the lancet holding member;

a trigger for releasing the [needle] lancet holding member from a retracted position; and

an [alignment] adjustment mechanism capable of [aligning] adjusting the at least one stop [of the] contained within the housing and the at least one protrusion of the [needle] lancet holding member to adjust the extended position of the [needle] lancet holding member.

27. (Amended) The lancet device of claim 20, wherein the at least one stop comprises a plurality of stops, and wherein the alignment mechanism comprises a rotary connection between the housing and the [needle] lancet holding member.

Please add claims 33-127 as follows:

---33. The lancet device of claim 20, wherein the lancet holding member includes an elongated slot and the housing includes a peg extending through the elongated slot.

34. A lancet device, comprising:

a housing having a proximal end opening;

a cover having an opening, wherein the cover is capable of covering the proximal end opening of the housing and contacting the skin of a user to position the lancet device;

a lancet holding member within the housing, the lancet holding member being capable of holding a lancet;

a biasing element which biases the lancet holding member toward the proximal end opening of the housing;

a trigger which holds and releases the lancet holding member toward the proximal end opening of the housing; and

a depth adjustment mechanism rotatably mounted on the housing, the depth adjustment mechanism including a protrusion which interacts with the lancet holding member to adjust a length

of travel of the lancet holding member to allow needle penetration depth adjustment, wherein the depth adjustment mechanism is out of contact with the cover when the cover is covering the proximal end opening of the housing.

35. The lancet device of claim 34, wherein rotation of the depth adjustment mechanism is limited by the housing.

36. The lancet device of claim 34, wherein movement of the depth adjustment mechanism adjusts a contact position between the protrusion of the depth adjustment mechanism and the lancet holding member to adjust the length of travel of the lancet holding member.

37. The lancet device of claim 34, further comprising a cocking mechanism.

38. The lancet device of claim 34, wherein the lancet holding member comprises an engagement segment which engages the trigger.

39. The lancet device of claim 38, wherein the engagement segment is biased outward so that the engagement segment engages the housing when the lancet device is cocked.

40. The lancet device of claim 34, wherein the lancet holding member comprises a slot, and wherein a peg on the housing engages the slot.

41. The lancet device of claim 34, wherein the biasing element comprises a spring.

42. The lancet device of claim 40, wherein the biasing element comprises a spring which contacts the peg and the lancet holding member.

43. The lancet device of claim 34, wherein the housing further comprises a distal end opening.

44. The lancet device of claim 43, further comprising an end cap covering the distal end opening of the housing.

45. The lancet device of claim 44, further comprising an additional biasing element which biases the end cap toward the housing.

46. The lancet device of claim 44, wherein the end cap is associated with the lancet holding member, and wherein the lancet device is cocked by pulling the end cap away from the housing until the trigger engages the lancet holding member.

47. The lancet device of claim 44, wherein a portion of the end cap is positioned within the housing.

48. The lancet device of claim 34, further comprising indicia to indicate penetration depth.

49. The lancet device of claim 34, wherein:

the lancet holding member comprises a slot,

a peg on the housing engages the slot, and

the biasing element comprises a spring which contacts the peg and the lancet holding member.

50. The lancet device of claim 34, wherein:

the housing further comprises a distal end opening,

an end cap covers the distal end opening of the housing,

an additional biasing element biases the end cap toward the housing,

the end cap is associated with the lancet holding member, and

the lancet device is cocked by pulling the end cap away from the housing until the trigger engages the lancet holding member.

51. The lancet device of claim 34, wherein:

the lancet holding member comprises a slot,

a peg on the housing engages the slot,

the biasing element comprises a spring which contacts the peg and the lancet holding member,

the housing further comprises a distal end opening,

an end cap covers the distal end opening of the housing,

an additional biasing element biases the end cap toward the housing,

the end cap is associated with the lancet holding member, and

the lancet device is cocked by pulling the end cap away from the housing until the trigger engages the lancet holding member.

52. A lancet device, comprising:

a housing having a proximal end opening;

a cover having an opening, wherein the cover is capable of covering the proximal end opening of the housing and contacting the skin of a user to position the lancet device;

a lancet holding member within the housing, the lancet holding member being capable of holding a lancet, the lancet holding member comprising a slot;

a peg contained within the housing, the peg engaging the slot;

a biasing element which biases the lancet holding member toward the proximal end opening of the housing;

a trigger which holds and releases the lancet holding member toward the proximal end opening of the housing; and

a depth adjustment mechanism movably mounted on the housing, the depth adjustment mechanism including a protrusion which interacts with the lancet holding member to adjust a length of travel of the lancet holding member.

53. The lancet device of claim 52, wherein movement of the depth adjustment mechanism is limited by the housing.

54. The lancet device of claim 52, wherein the depth adjustment mechanism is rotatably mounted on the housing.

55. The lancet device of claim 54, wherein rotation of the depth adjustment mechanism is limited by the housing.

56. The lancet device of claim 52, wherein movement of the depth adjustment mechanism adjusts a contact position between the protrusion of the depth adjustment mechanism and the lancet holding member to adjust the length of travel of the lancet holding member.

57. The lancet device of claim 52, further comprising a cocking mechanism.

58. The lancet device of claim 52, wherein the lancet holding member comprises an engagement segment which engages the trigger.

59. The lancet device of claim 58, wherein the engagement segment is biased outward so that the engagement segment engages the housing when the lancet device is cocked.

60. The lancet device of claim 52, wherein the biasing element comprises a spring.

61. The lancet device of claim 60, wherein the spring contacts the peg and the lancet holding member.

62. The lancet device of claim 52, wherein the housing further comprises a distal end opening.

63. The lancet device of claim 62, further comprising an end cap covering the distal end opening of the housing.

64. The lancet device of claim 63, further comprising an additional biasing element which biases the end cap toward the housing.

65. The lancet device of claim 63, wherein the end cap is associated with the lancet holding member, and wherein the lancet device is cocked by pulling the end cap away from the housing until the trigger engages the lancet holding member.

66. The lancet device of claim 65, wherein a portion of the end cap is positioned within the housing.

67. The lancet device of claim 52, further comprising indicia to indicate penetration depth.

68. The lancet device of claim 52, wherein:

the housing further comprises a distal end opening,

an end cap covers the distal end opening of the housing,

an additional biasing element biases the end cap toward the housing,

the end cap is associated with the lancet holding member, and

the lancet device is cocked by pulling the end cap away from the housing until the trigger engages the lancet holding member.

69. A lancet device, comprising:

a housing having a proximal end opening;

a cover having an opening, wherein the cover is capable of covering the proximal end opening of the housing and contacting the skin of a user to position the lancet device;

a lancet holding member within the housing, the lancet holding member being capable of holding a lancet;

a biasing element which biases the lancet holding member toward the proximal end opening of the housing;

a trigger which holds and releases the lancet holding member toward the proximal end opening of the housing; and

a depth adjustment mechanism movably mounted on the housing, the depth adjustment mechanism including a protrusion which interacts with the lancet holding member to adjust a length of travel of the lancet holding member to allow needle penetration depth adjustment, wherein the protrusion is distal of at least a portion of the biasing element.

70. The lancet device of claim 69, wherein movement of the depth adjustment mechanism is limited by the housing.

71. The lancet device of claim 69, wherein the depth adjustment mechanism is rotatably mounted on the housing.

72. The lancet device of claim 71, wherein rotation of the depth adjustment mechanism is limited by the housing.

73. The lancet device of claim 69, wherein movement of the depth adjustment mechanism adjusts a contact position between the protrusion of the depth adjustment mechanism and the lancet holding member to adjust the length of travel of the lancet holding member.

74. The lancet device of claim 69, further comprising a cocking mechanism.

75. The lancet device of claim 69, wherein the lancet holding member comprises an engagement segment which engages the trigger.

76. The lancet device of claim 75, wherein the engagement segment is biased outward so that the engagement segment engages the housing when the lancet device is cocked.

77. The lancet device of claim 69, wherein the lancet holding member comprises a slot, and wherein a peg on the housing engages the slot.

78. The lancet device of claim 69, wherein the biasing element comprises a spring.

79. The lancet device of claim 77, wherein the biasing element comprises a spring which contacts the peg and the lancet holding member.

80. The lancet device of claim 69, wherein the housing further comprises a distal end opening.

81. The lancet device of claim 80, further comprising an end cap covering the distal end opening of the housing.

82. The lancet device of claim 81, further comprising an additional biasing element which biases the end cap toward the housing.

83. The lancet device of claim 81, wherein the end cap is associated with the lancet holding member, and wherein the lancet device is cocked by pulling the end cap away from the housing until the trigger engages the lancet holding member.

84. The lancet device of claim 81, wherein a portion of the end cap is positioned within the housing.

85. The lancet device of claim 69, further comprising indicia to indicate penetration depth.

86. The lancet device of claim 69, wherein:

the lancet holding member comprises a slot,

a peg on the housing engages the slot, and

the biasing element comprises a spring which contacts the peg and the lancet holding member.

87. The lancet device of claim 69, wherein:

the housing further comprises a distal end opening,

an end cap covers the distal end opening of the housing,

an additional biasing element biases the end cap toward the housing,

the end cap is associated with the lancet holding member, and

the lancet device is cocked by pulling the end cap away from the housing until the trigger engages the lancet holding member.

88. The lancet device of claim 69, wherein:

the lancet holding member comprises a slot,

a peg on the housing engages the slot,

the biasing element comprises a spring which contacts the peg and the lancet holding member,

the housing further comprises a distal end opening,

an end cap covers the distal end opening of the housing,

an additional biasing element biases the end cap toward the housing,

the end cap is associated with the lancet holding member, and

the lancet device is cocked by pulling the end cap away from the housing until the trigger engages the lancet holding member.

89. A lancet device, comprising:

a housing having a proximal end opening;

a cover having an opening, wherein the cover is capable of covering the proximal end opening of the housing and contacting the skin of a user to position the lancet device;

a lancet holding member within the housing, the lancet holding member being capable of holding a lancet, the lancet holding member comprising a slot;

a biasing element which biases the lancet holding member toward the proximal end opening of the housing;

a trigger which holds and releases the lancet holding member toward the proximal end opening of the housing; and

a depth adjustment mechanism movably mounted on the housing, the depth adjustment mechanism including a protrusion which interacts with the lancet holding member to adjust a length of travel of the lancet holding member to allow needle penetration depth adjustment, wherein the protrusion is distal of at least a portion of the slot of the lancet holding member.

90. The lancet device of claim 89, wherein movement of the depth adjustment mechanism is limited by the housing.

91. The lancet device of claim 89, wherein the depth adjustment mechanism is rotatably mounted on the housing.

92. The lancet device of claim 91, wherein rotation of the depth adjustment mechanism is limited by the housing.

93. The lancet device of claim 89, wherein movement of the depth adjustment mechanism adjusts a contact position between the protrusion of the depth adjustment mechanism and the lancet holding member to adjust the length of travel of the lancet holding member.

94. The lancet device of claim 89, further comprising a cocking mechanism.

95. The lancet device of claim 89, wherein the lancet holding member comprises an engagement segment which engages the trigger.

96. The lancet device of claim 95, wherein the engagement segment is biased outward so that the engagement segment engages the housing when the lancet device is cocked.

97. The lancet device of claim 89, wherein the lancet holding member comprises a slot, and wherein a peg on the housing engages the slot.

98. The lancet device of claim 89, wherein the biasing element comprises a spring.

99. The lancet device of claim 97, wherein the biasing element comprises a spring which contacts the peg and the lancet holding member.

100. The lancet device of claim 89, wherein the housing further comprises a distal end opening.

101. The lancet device of claim 100, further comprising an end cap covering the distal end opening of the housing.

102. The lancet device of claim 101, further comprising an additional biasing element which biases the end cap toward the housing.

103. The lancet device of claim 101, wherein the end cap is associated with the lancet holding member, and wherein the lancet device is cocked by pulling the end cap away from the housing until the trigger engages the lancet holding member.

104. The lancet device of claim 101, wherein a portion of the end cap is positioned within the housing.

105. The lancet device of claim 89, further comprising indicia to indicate penetration depth.

106. The lancet device of claim 89, wherein:

a peg on the housing engages the slot, and

the biasing element comprises a spring which contacts the peg and the lancet holding member.

107. The lancet device of claim 89, wherein:

the housing further comprises a distal end opening,

an end cap covers the distal end opening of the housing,

an additional biasing element biases the end cap toward the housing,

the end cap is associated with the lancet holding member, and

the lancet device is cocked by pulling the end cap away from the housing until the trigger engages the lancet holding member.

108. The lancet device of claim 89, wherein:

a peg on the housing engages the slot,

the biasing element comprises a spring which contacts the peg and the lancet holding member,

the housing further comprises a distal end opening,

an end cap covers the distal end opening of the housing,

an additional biasing element biases the end cap toward the housing,

the end cap is associated with the lancet holding member, and

the lancet device is cocked by pulling the end cap away from the housing until the trigger engages the lancet holding member.

109. A lancet device, comprising:

a generally elongate housing having a forward end opening and a back end opening;

a cap with a through hole at a forward end;

a lancet holder slidably mounted within the housing;

a biasing element which biases the lancet holder toward the forward end opening of the housing;

a button, movable between a first position in which the lancet holder is restrained when the lancet device is cocked and a second position in which the restraint is removed, permitting the biasing element to thrust the lancet holder forward; and

a closure at the back end of the housing, including an adjustment element comprising a protrusion that stops the forward motion of the lancet holder at a predetermined position, and wherein the adjustment element adjusts the position of the protrusion to controllably change and reset the predetermined position at which the lancet holder is stopped.

110. The lancet device of claim 109, wherein movement of the adjustment element is limited by the housing.

111. The lancet device of claim 109, wherein the adjustment element is rotatably mounted on the housing.

112. The lancet device of claim 111, wherein rotation of the adjustment element is limited by the housing.

113. The lancet device of claim 109, wherein the adjustment element comprises a threaded connection for attaching the closure to the housing, whereby rotating the closure on the housing positions the protrusion forward and back.

114. The lancet device of claim 109, further comprising a cocking mechanism.

115. The lancet device of claim 109, wherein the lancet holder comprises a cantilever extension which engages the button.

116. The lancet device of claim 115, wherein the cantilever extension is biased outward so that the cantilever extension engages the housing when the lancet device is cocked.

117. The lancet device of claim 109, wherein the lancet holder comprises a slot, and wherein a peg on the housing engages the slot.

118. The lancet device of claim 109, wherein the biasing element has a first end which bears on the housing and a second end which bears on the lancet holder.

119. The lancet device of claim 109, wherein the biasing element comprises a spring.

120. The lancet device of claim 117, wherein the biasing element comprises a spring which contacts the peg and the lancet holder.

121. The lancet device of claim 109, further comprising an additional biasing element which biases the closure toward the housing.

122. The lancet device of claim 109, wherein the lancet device is cocked by pulling the closure away from the housing until the button engages the lancet holder.

123. The lancet device of claim 109, wherein a portion of the closure is positioned within the housing.